

Docket No. AB-131U1

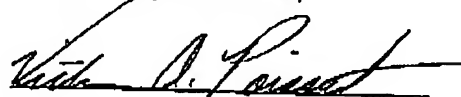
Remarks

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 4, 8-14, and 16 were allowed. By way of the present amendment, applicant has herein canceled Claims 5-7. Claims 5-7 have been canceled to advance the prosecution of this case and it is not an admission that the Examiner's rejection is correct. The subject matter of canceled Claims 5-7, and similar claims, will be pursued in a continuing application(s). Nine (9) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 4, 8-14, and 16, of which Claims 4, 8, and 12 are independent.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Victoria A. Poissant, at her convenience should any issues remain after consideration and entry of this response, in order to permit early resolution of such issues.

Respectfully Submitted,



Victoria A. Poissant
Reg. No. 56,871

June 6, 2005

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Application No. 10/624,724
Amendment B dated June 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed April 6, 2004

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